**GI Bill Oral Histories**  
   
   
**Russell E. Schramm**  
   
   
Shaun Illingworth: This begins an interview with Mr. Russell Schramm on November 26, 2002, in New Brunswick, New Jersey, with Shaun Illingworth and …  
   
Mark Miller: Mark Miller.  
   
SI: And now Mr. Schramm, thank you very much for being with us today.  
   
Russell Schramm: Okay.  
   
MM: I'd like to begin by asking you a bit about your parents. Where they came from and what were their backgrounds?  
   
RS: Well, I was one of seven children from Springfield, New Jersey. [laughter] I was living with my parents at that time and that was back in [the 1920s]. … Well, I was born in 1924 and I'm now seventy-eight years old, … but, anyway, my parents are both deceased now and my mother passed away when she was thirty-six years old as a result of pneumonia in the hospital after delivering … the last child. My Dad died when he was eighty-four years old in 1974, but, anyway, that's my background. I went to the local schools in Springfield, James Caldwell School and the Jonathan Dayton Regional High School and I got my higher education after I left the service under the GI Bill, anyway, that's pretty much … my background. I played some basketball and football in high school...  
   
MM: How did Pearl Harbor affect you and your opinion towards the war?  
   
RS: I was devastated and thought it was impossible, and to the war? Well, I went from New York to Great Lakes and I was in boot camp there and did my basic training and everything was new to me. I was eighteen years old and I really didn't know what I was in for, or what I was going to be exposed to, but, anyway, at my request. I wanted to go into communications and they sent me to Northwestern University for that training... Basic training was boot camp. That lasted two-and-a-half months... It was winter time then. We jogged around the Great Lakes area in our skivvies when it was snowing. It was pretty rigorous, training there. Some of the guys didn't make it, but I made it and I went from there to service school in communications, primarily. I had an equivalent of a year and a half of college there. That was the basic training, excepting I was trained again when I was transferred from the European Theater to the Pacific Theater. I got to Camp Eliot in San Diego, the Marine base, and got another set of training things, you know, with combat stuff and then I was shipped to the South Pacific from there. That was rigorous training, too.   
   
SI: Do you remember hearing about the atomic bombs?  
   
RS: Yes. Yes, I do. When they said, "We won the war," and that was because of the atomic bombs in Nagasaki and what was the other place? The two cities that they bombed? Truman made the decision and that was good because that ended the war in Japan. It saved a lot of lives, I think, even though it took a lot of lives where the bombs fell. In Germany, we just beat them, outright. That was just a lost war. They just lost the war. We went on Normandy and went into Paris and then across the Maginot Line into Germany with the Russians. That was the end of that. You know, we had thirteen million, and that was a lot of people. I don't know how many we lost, I think a million-and-a-half. How many of the other countries lost, I don't know, but it has to have been astronomical.  
   
SI: We just want to ask you about the GI Bill. How did you use the GI Bill?  
   
RS: When I got out of the service, I applied for the GI Bill and I went to New York University under it and got a degree. [As] a matter-of-fact, I went to the Wise Building down in Newark, where they were holding evening and day classes, and that's where I went. Most of the courses I took there, the Wise Building in Newark, but, I used it then and I also used the GI Bill to get my first mortgage. I had a GI mortgage. I think I spent fifteen thousand dollars for the house. I got a GI mortgage for twelve, but, anyway, that was it. I used the Veterans Administration now for healthcare. I liked the idea that they were charging two dollars for medicine, unlike today, which if you go into a pharmacy, you get broke, you come out with nothing except the medicine. Well, anyway, that's what I use, the VA.  
   
SI: If you hadn't gone in the service and gotten the GI Bill do you think you would have gone to college anyway?  
   
RS: Well, I was one of seven kids in our family, kind of tough on my father to pay for that. So, taking advantage of the GI Bill was easy as, you know, one-two-three, and that's why I took advantage of it. I would do it again. GI Bill is very important to me. [As] a matter-of-fact, I became an executive vice president, secretary of the board of directors; I was a director in a bank when I finally retired and that was through my degrees and what not that I got.

**Robert A. Ragotzkie**  
   
Rutgers Oral History Archives  
New Brunswick History Department  
   
Sandra Holyoak: To begin with, would you tell me a little about your family before the war and where you lived and your father's background and your mother's background?  
   
Robert A. Ragotzkie: I lived in Albany, New York, and I was an only child. Both my mother and father were alive. My father served in the Army during World War I. He did not go overseas. My mother did not serve in any war.  
   
SH: Your father, what did he do?  
   
RR: My father worked in a garage most of his life. My mother worked as a secretary. I suppose it was my mother's work in the New York State Conservation Department that got me interested in biology and, ultimately, led to my going to the University.  
   
SH: All of your education took place in Albany?  
   
RR: I was born and raised in Albany, New York, and received all my education there. I graduated from Albany High School in 1942, and [then] came to Rutgers in September of 1942. The war was already on. [I] turned eighteen, about the time I arrived at Rutgers, and I was awaiting military service. Ultimately, I was drafted, but I was able to apply for the Air Force and was accepted as an aviation cadet in the Air Force. I entered the service in March of 1943 and had completed one semester, plus about six weeks, at Rutgers, before I entered the service.  
   
SH : After you completed your training, what sort of duty did you pull from there?  
   
RR: I [had] flight training in Florida and Georgia, advanced training in Georgia, [and I] graduated [in] August of 1944 as a pilot. [I] was commissioned as a second lieutenant. I had wanted to be a fighter pilot, everybody wants to be a fighter pilot. I didn't get that. I was then assigned to heavy bombardment and was made a copilot, because I had not gone to multi-engine school. So I went to B-24 copilot training in Tyndall Field, Florida, and from there to Tonopah, Nevada, for overseas combat training. Ultimately, I was assigned to a good crew. With that crew, I was then shipped out of San Francisco, where we went into our combat assignment.   
   
SH: And where was that assignment?  
   
RR: We went first to New Guinea, Nadzab, New Guinea. The Pacific War, in 1944, was really beginning to roll up the islands. The US had not yet captured all the islands, so we went to New Guinea and had to be flown in a circuitous route to San Jose, Mindoro, the Philippines, where the 90th Bomb Group was stationed. That's where I was assigned. It was from there that we then conducted our bombing operations for the next several months in 1945. ... I arrived overseas about February of 1945. The war was then rolling up, past Formosa. The Battle of Okinawa was yet to happen. The Battle of Leyte had just occurred. Luzon was not yet completely cleared. Manila had been liberated, but just barely. We were still south of Manila, and we were bombing, what was then Formosa, what is now Taiwan. And then later, we went to Okinawa.  
   
SH: Then after your military service?  
   
RR: I separated from the Air Force in November of 1945, and returned to Rutgers in January of 1946. This was, of course, the time of the GI Bill of Rights. And, like most of us who returned, I was very anxious to get on with my education and took a fairly heavy load and completed my college in the next two and a half years, two years and a summer. Although I started as the Class of '46, I graduated in 1948. I then went on to graduate school here at Rutgers and completed a Master's Degree in sanitation at Cook College in 1950. Then I went to the University of Wisconsin at Madison and took a Ph.D. in meteorology and zoology, completing that degree in 1953.  
   
SH: Did you come back on the GI Bill , then?  
   
RR: Yes. We came back on the GI Bill, and I'd like to say that that is the greatest, the greatest program this country has ever had, as far as I know. I wish we could have the GI Bill again, because I think it was the investment of our nation in us in 1946 on, to '50 or so, after World War II, that produced enormous growth in this nation. Economic, political, and social growth of this nation, which made us a power and has carried us for the next forty years. I'm very concerned that we will lose that momentum. I worry that the nation is not investing, now, in the GI Bill , or something like it, because it is going to come back and haunt us if we don't. It was a wonderful thing. Now, the GI Bill alone, did not do it, and I've discussed this with other people who went through it. It was also the maturity and the motivation of the returning military people, GIs, who made it work. But that came about because of military service and the discipline we had learned and gotten from military service. And so I think today, I'm going to preach a little, today we need a GI Bill. But we need a GI Bill and we need some kind of a service arrangement to give young people an experience of discipline, an experience to make them appreciate university or vocational or training of whatever they want. We won the war because masses of people and money and materiel [were used], because we were so big. But we won the peace because of the GI Bill . No question in my mind, whatsoever. And the universities, of course, were founded on the GI Bill , literally. Rutgers, when I started, had two thousand students. And when I came back, it was five thousand, and in a few years, it was ten thousand. And Rutgers, of course, has changed. It's bigger and greater. And all universities [were growing]. When I went to Wisconsin in 1950, for graduate school, Wisconsin had, I think, ten thousand, eight or ten thousand students. And when I retired five years ago, at University of Wisconsin at Madison, [it] had forty-five thousand students. I saw that change. A lot of this came from the GI Bill, and a lot of the faculty that I served with were GI Bill -produced faculty. It is just astounding what that program accomplished.  
   
SH: Are you doing this [interview] through the university or is this just totally independent?  
   
RR: No, just for fun. But I've written about it and I've given seminars.  
   
SH: So are you affiliated with any organization through the university at all?   
   
RR: I'm a retired faculty professor, so, I have an office.   
   
SH: Well, it's been fascinating to talk with you. Are there any other points that you would like to share about the war, or anything like that? Are there any other things that you would like to send to the archives? Points of interest or perspectives?  
   
RR: Yes, I would like to make one point. For the United States, World War II was fought almost entirely by civilians. It was a civilian Army, a civilian Air Force, a civilian Navy, and even mostly a civilian Marine Corps. The professional military existed, of course, but a very small percentage of our military forces was professional. As a consequence, the combat troops did not always follow the rules or go by the book. They were even undisciplined at times, but because they had one goal in mind, to defeat the enemy, they were very creative and did not hesitate to innovate in moments of crisis. More often than not, this worked to our advantage, because our opponents, the Japanese and the Germans, were mostly longstanding, professional military units. They were very predictable in what they would do while the Americans were unpredictable. We would try anything in a pinch and this often confused the enemy. War is a terrible thing; it is wasteful, inefficient, and tragic for everyone involved. The American forces understood this very well and their only goal, in addition to survival, was to get it over as quickly as possible. Therefore, they brought to their work a high level of energy and ingenuity, never mind the rule book.

**Irwin Gordon**   
Rutgers Oral History Archives  
New Brunswick History Department  
   
Sea Jin Lee: This begins an interview with Dr. Irwin Gordon on November 5, 2003, in New Brunswick, New Jersey, with Sea Jin Lee …  
   
Sandra Stewart Holyoak: Sandra Stewart Holyoak …  
   
Ashley Perri: Ashley Perri …  
   
Irwin Gordon: … And Irwin Gordon.   
   
SH: To begin the interview, I would like for you to tell us where and when you were born, and then, tell us a bit about your family, please.  
   
IG: Okay. I was born in Brooklyn, New York, in 1924, moved to Elizabeth, New Jersey, when I was about eight years old. I have two brothers. I'm the eldest of the three. … By the way, we are all Rutgers alumni. I came to Rutgers by way of the GI Bill of Rights. I was in Ceramics. Their building is now [the] School of Social Work, I think. … Of course, they've really expanded since then, but, anyway, my other two brothers were both here on scholarship, one for basketball, and he did quite well for himself, and the other in swimming, other sports. So, we had great experiences … with Rutgers. I took a summer class with Professor [Stanley E.] Brasefield and, on returning the blue books, the exam books, he made the statement, "You men will never be drafted," with very strong conviction, and we wondered, "What does he know that we don't know?" Then, he followed that up with, "You're too dumb." Well, … we were disappointed that we would be drafted, [laughter] but, nevertheless, we laughed at it and continued on with the class.  
   
SH: What year did you graduate from high school?  
   
IG: '42, I think. …  
   
SH: In your high school classes or in discussions at home, was there any talk of what was going on in Europe with Hitler?  
   
IG: No, … not to my recollection. I took Latin. [laughter] I don't suppose they teach that anymore.  
   
SH: When you were in high school, did you and your family think that you would go on to college?  
   
IG: … Yes, yes, although, I must say, I was the first in the family to do so. The rest were in the garment trade.  
   
SH: Do you remember where you were when you first heard about Pearl Harbor?  
   
IG: I was with a friend, at his house, and couldn't believe what we heard.  
   
SH: Did you understand the impact of that report?  
   
IG: Not what … it would produce, but what an awful act that was. I mean, here, we were living at peace and, suddenly, some country tried to put an end to us.  
   
SH: What about the discussions in your family about politics? What about Franklin Roosevelt and his policies?  
   
IG: I think he was a hero, I think so. … Maybe I didn't pay attention, but there wasn't very much political discussion.  
   
SH: Did you enlist or were you drafted?  
   
IG: No, I was drafted, yes.  
   
SH: When were you told to report? When did you first know?  
   
IG: It must have been early in '43, yes.  
   
SH: Was it winter when you reported? Did you report to Fort Dix or to New York?  
   
IG: Fort Dix, yes. They gave me a voucher for the bus to get to Fort Dix, yes, and then, for basic training, we went up to Fort Devens, in Massachusetts, yes.  
   
SH: Where was your embarkation point?  
   
IG: New York.  
   
SH: Can you tell us about how you got loaded up? I think, for combat engineers, it is a little different.  
   
IG: … Well, we were treated no differently, in the sense that we were loaded on this troopship.  
   
SH: What about your equipment and things like that?  
   
IG: It was loaded up as well.   
   
SH: On the same ship?  
   
IG: Yes, I believe so and we arrived in England.  
   
SH: Did you travel in convoy?  
   
IG: In the ship? Yes, I would say so, yes.  
   
SH: Do you remember the name of the ship you went over on?  
   
IG: My memory isn't what it used to be, I'm sorry. [laughter]  
   
SH: I was just curious.   
   
IG: Yes, I did. … We went to England, as I say, for about … six weeks. … This was around D-Day time, so, we were grateful for that, having been spared that. We did go across the Channel, from Southampton to the beach, came down on the side of the ship, on these rope ladders, you know, net ladders, and we went from there. It was about D-Day plus, oh, I don't know, almost two months after that, yes... Well, once we got into Germany, we were moving fast again. People had left … their houses. They didn't want any part of the action of the war, being shot or anything by mistake, by accident, and there's a photograph here, "Entering Germany, by the Grace of God and the First Battalion, 319th Infantry of the 80th Division," and this was at a river crossing.  
   
SH: You came back to Rutgers in January of 1946.  
   
IG: Yes.   
   
SH: Did you continue in ceramics?  
   
IG: Yes, yes... After, I stayed on, went through my Master's program with the GI Bill and, also, got my PhD and it was a great invention, that GI Bill, I will tell you. After I graduated, I got my one and only job. I went to work for the RCA laboratories on Route 1 in Princeton and I was there for about thirty-five years. General Electric acquired the Laboratory, offered early retirement for those who would take it. They had given the whole place, the Laboratories, to SRI International as a research organization. SRI said, "Well, it's a little bit too big for us to handle." There were about thirteen hundred employees there, and so, they asked for volunteers to step down. I was there that long, it was time and [I have been retired] ever since. …

**John A. Holdorf**  
   
Rutgers Oral History Archives  
New Brunswick History Department  
   
Shaun Illingworth: This begins an interview with Mr. John A. Holdorf on June 22, 2007, in Mountainside, New Jersey, with Shaun Illingworth ...  
   
Matthew Lawrence: ... and Matt Lawrence.   
   
SI: Mr. Holdorf, thank you very much for agreeing to this interview.   
   
John A. Holdorf: Very glad to do it.   
   
SI: To begin, could you tell us where and when you were born?  
   
JH: Yes, Elizabeth, New Jersey, on February 15, 1927, and it was on First Street, ... Elizabeth, at that time. That was one block off of the piers and I was born into an Italian immigrant family. My grandfather, grandmother, two uncles and two aunts were all born in Italy and my mother was the first one born here, so, I'm the first generation, and, on my father's side, they were German and, again, first generation. My parents were the first generations here. I was raised by my Italian grandparents until I was about six, so, [I was] very influenced that way.... We never owned a house. In fact, nobody in my family, my aunts, my uncles, my cousins, four or five cousins, ever went to school, to college. I was the first one in the group to go to college, and that was because of the GI Bill. Otherwise, I wouldn't have been on the path I am on. So, that's my growing up years and, eventually, [I] went to Thomas Jefferson High School, which was an all-boys school, and, of course, it was during wartime. So, most of my friends took off for the war, even before they graduated, but I stuck it out to the bitter end, [laughter] and then, the Army took me. ... My remembrance of that is the long, heavy overcoats, [laughter] and standing in big fields and waiting around, and it's interesting how little things you do in your life help you out and you never realize it. I took up typing in high school, which was quite strange, because it was an all-boys school and typing was the thing you did, and, yet, when I went into the Army, that's the one thing that separated me from most of the other fellows, who didn't. ... I became a company clerk and, at that time, when the officers were rotating in and out daily, it became ... a spot where I was my own company, so-to-speak, because we [were] just discharging people, in fact, so much so that I promoted myself. [laughter] ... It was that kind of crazy time, when things were straightening out, and, after that, I was taking ... correspondence courses, because I was always interested in education. For some strange reason, I'm not oriented to any one thing, but I like to study everything, "master of none," so-to-speak. [laughter]  
   
SI: When you were starting out in high school, or in the late 1930s and early 1940s, did you know about what was happening overseas?  
   
JH: Yes. Oh, sure, we lived that coming war, yes, the rations and everything else.   
   
SI: Do you remember where you were when you heard about Pearl Harbor being attacked?  
   
JH: Yes. I was at my Aunt Dot's house, with my four cousins and the family, Father, Mother, and they heard about it and they had a TV then and we saw it on TV.   
   
SI: Was it a TV or a radio?  
   
JH: I don't know. The picture's faint, but I thought it was TV, but it ... must have been radio, or something. I don't know what it was, but we heard about it as a family and my cousins were all older than I was, so, they immediately went into service. One was a SeaBee [a member of a US Navy Construction Battalion (CB)], one was in the Army, one was in the Air Force, and the other was in the Army, too, yes. So, it wasn't any thought about it. ... The family said, "Okay, good-bye," you know, "good luck." ... Of course, I didn't have to go right away, so, I joined the Naval Reserve. We shipped out of Elizabeth and I was the helmsman on a LST. We used to go up to Maine and down again, and things like that. [Editor's Note: LST stands for "landing ship, tank," an amphibious ship that carried vehicles, cargo and troops directly ashore.]  
   
SI: How did you get involved with the Naval Reserve?  
   
JH: I don't know. I think some of the kids in school were doing it and, of course, the age, at that time, was [not a factor]. You know, there's a war going on, you know, fifteen is good enough, you know, to do these things. So, we did, and I did that while I was in school. So, by the time I graduated, I could go into service.   
   
SI: You went through that program. Why did you decide to go in the Army, rather than try to go into the Navy?  
   
JH: The US Government decided I'd go in the Army. [laughter] When I got my notice to go to the Army, I didn't think about anything else, just went to the Army. ...I went into service, nothing spectacular or unusual during that time, because the war was winding down, [had] winded down in Europe and was only [against] Japan, and instead of training us, to send us to Japan, they kept me around to discharge people coming over, or sending them somewhere else, things of that nature. So, like I say, that was a great step in my life, because it gave me the ability to go to Rutgers, ... Then, I did go to Rutgers, under the GI Bill, and, again, you have to remember that we weren't what you would call an affluent family. Today, of course, everybody helps their kids go to college, there's no doubt about it, you know. "Here's a car." ... [laughter] Of course, I had none of that, but my dad loaned me his car, an old Packard, and I'd go back and forth to Rutgers for the first year, or so, and then, I joined the ROTC, mainly because they paid me, too, and then, I could afford to stay down there... I was always interested in general things, nothing specific. I didn't want to be a lawyer or a scientist or an engineer. So, eventually, actually, I've got ... two degrees in Rutgers, the library science master's degree, and I've got a general education masters out of Kean, and the general business degree in Rutgers...Like I say, I was the first one in my entire family, cousins and uncles and aunts or anything, that went to college. So, we look at things a lot differently than everybody that expects to go to college. ... "Of course you go to college; what else do you do?" We never did, you know, and then... everybody used the GI Bill. That was a big thing. That changed the complexity of the American population entirely. It's like going to college or not going to college. Can you imagine the difference? ... My experience at Rutgers was great. I really liked it, but it was a lot different than yours will be or anybody else's will be, because of where it came from, you know.  
   
When I was up at Reserve training, my wife and my mother and the two kids were coming back down to Jersey and a drunken driver hit them and only my son survived, yes, and he went to live with his grandmother and I went down to New Jersey, back to New Jersey, and I joined the military intelligence unit in Kearny, to get some [money], and then, I started work in libraries. I got interested in it because my aunt had the Elizabeth Library and she said, "I don't have anybody for the summer, for the science library. Would you come part-time?" I said, "Sure." I fell in love with it. So, I went to Rutgers for the communications library degree and I've been in the libraries ever since and I worked in the Newark Business Library ... during one summer and the guy, George Marx, worked there, too, and ... we hated it, you know. [laughter] If you can't get along with your boss, the job is just too difficult, especially since you don't have to do it. You [can] go somewhere else, but he wanted me to come to Union County College Library and I said, "Okay, I'll try it." So, I came there for a bit and I stayed for twenty-seven years. It was great. Can you imagine somebody who likes to learn in charge of a library? [laughter] What could be better?

**Harvey S. Lowy**  
   
Sandra Stewart Holyoak: This begins an interview with Harvey S. Lowy at Rutgers University on June 15, 1999. I'd like to begin by thanking you, Mr. Lowy, for coming up to the third floor here at Bishop House and I'll begin by asking you some questions about where you were born and when, and then you can tell me about your father and then your mother.  
   
Harvey Lowy: Very good. I, Harvey Lowy, was born in Brooklyn, New York on July 30, 1927. The address was Pennsylvania Avenue which is in Brooklyn and, I think, it's near New Lots Avenue, which is a pretty well-known intersection. We moved, when I was about two years old to another section of Brooklyn called Hegeman Avenue up a street. Hegeman Ave. and that's where I mostly remember my early childhood years. Pennsylvania Avenue, I was really too small to remember what was going on, but I do remember one incident. On a summer's day, I can remember this, I must have been, well, it was before I was walking, I remember as a scanning around in the sidewalk, it was a big apartment building, in a little cartwheel, that the little infants use before they walked to get around. You know, they sit down and they move their legs and the wheels turn and go on the sidewalk, and this one friend of my father, his name is Felix, my sister remembered his name, she told me about that incident, and he was egging me on. He used to watch me go, and he used to say, "Go, Harvey, go." I was so fast that I was the fastest thing, I was a blur when I was going around that little sidewalk in Brooklyn. We moved to Newark, New Jersey and I was, just don't remember the date, but I was just about, maybe seven, or eight years old, and I remember the school, I don't remember the school I went to in New York, although, you know, it was just probably maybe two or three years and we moved to Dewey Street in Newark, New Jersey, which is part of the very well-known Weequahic section of Newark.  
   
SH: Can you tell me a little bit about your father, was he a native New Yorker?  
   
HL: No, my father was born in Poland, a small town near Krakow, Poland and he immigrated, to New York, through Ellis Island, right after his brother. Max Lowy came here first, about two years after that, my father came here and I never got the dates straight, but it must have been about 1910 or 1915.  
   
SH: Your mother was from New York?  
   
HL: My mother was born in New York. Her maiden name was Bloome, May Bloome. She never worked, at that time very few women, you know worked. I think it was a kind of a, you'd be ashamed to admit that you worked, because that meant was nobody was taking care of you, you know, is providing to you, and the biggest compliment that a woman can get at that period of time, remember we're talking about 1920, 1915, was to be desired as a spouse. That was the main goal, the occupation of most young women.  
   
SH: What were your interests as a young man in high school and grade school?  
   
HL: Two interests, girls and sports, and that's it. I'm strictly limited to that. I played baseball in high school and I played baseball for Rutgers and as a matter-of-fact, my most famous claim to fame was that I appeared, I didn't pitch, but I appeared in a game with Ralph Branca . Is Ralph Branca familiar to you?  
   
SH: Well, tell us about him.  
   
HL: He became a professional baseball pitcher. He pitched for NYU. He played at NYU, and with no stadium, it was, just don't know where it was, it was an open field. Everybody would come in and watch it with no stadium and no admission, or anything, and I didn't know who he was, but when I saw him pitch, I really got to investigate and found out that he was the best pitcher on the staff and he was fantastic and he was signed by the Brooklyn Dodgers, and this was the fellow who pitched in the World Series, who gave up that homerun to Bobby Thompson, that was, Ralph Branca.  
   
SH: What position did you play on the baseball team?  
   
HL: I was a pitcher.  
   
SH: Why did you pick Rutgers to go to school?  
   
HL: Well, they picked me. I was looking around, you know, I had no money and I couldn't afford tuition, this is before I was drafted. After that when I was discharged, I got the GI Bill, I took advantage of the GI Bill. Incidentally, I want to talk about the GI Bill, because that helped me along with many of my peers, to establish ourselves. This was the biggest, I think, event in the Twentieth Century for the United States of America, was the GI Bill of Rights, for veterans. I took a test, I remember taking an entrance test for Rutgers, and I didn't know whether I could afford the tuition. The tuition at that time, I think, was about $500.00 a year. I think it was even less than that. I don't remember. It was around $500.00 a year. This is September '44, graduated Class of '48. Incidentally, I went to the army, I was drafted, and I spent one full year in the army, and I got out, I graduated with my original class because I went to summer school. So I went to high school three and a half years, and went to college for three years, you know, and I think I was just twenty when I went to Columbia for one year of graduate school. Okay, so they offered me a, what is called an 1864 State Scholarship. Are you familiar with that? It's not the other, there's a State Scholarship that's given, I think to more applicants and I think it provides more than the 1864 scholarship. But they offered me that, which was, I think, tuition free, so I went. I was very happy to receive it.  
   
SH: You wind up being a guidance counselor in high school, but what would you say, looking back now, at the teachers, what was that ethic that they, some how were able to instill, that work ethic?  
   
HL: Well, the administration structured it so that you don't find that today, certainly. I mean, I taught, I was a math teacher for seven years, eighteen years as a guidance counselor, and certainly, it was not reproduced in my school and I don't know of any other school that had this kind of requirement. This was a work; study ethic that was expected of students and the students responded one hundred percent. When I go to my reunions, I meet more famous professionals than I think any other period would have. They were a very successful generation, and all because of the work ethic. Now the other high schools in Newark had a similar work ethic, but not as rigid and as effective as Weequahic High School. This was, I think, somebody should go into that and, you know, look at that and determine how they did it, and whether it can be reproduced today. Because, again, I was a product of that, when I came to Rutgers, I was far more advanced than my peers were coming from other high schools. Most of them came from Jersey incidentally, very few out of state. It was a very local school. It was not even a state college, it was a land grant college at that time.  
   
SH: Now as a young man in high school, did you work in the summers, or what did you do?  
   
HL: Yes, now, incidentally, I was a guidance counselor but I can enumerate probably twenty-five other jobs, careers, anything else you want to mention, including my one year in the army. For example, during my one year in the army, I was a radio actor for six months, in Fort Bliss, Texas. In Fort Ord, California, I had become a radio actor, I applied for it and they gave me the job. I auditioned and I got it. I started out as a supporting radio actor and I took the lead for a while and I still have articles that were written, one article is written by me. I was also a reporter for the newspaper, for the post newspaper, and I wrote up the story about a well-known radio program that we broadcast to everyone but particularly to the GIs, you know, the soldiers based in that area. It was a local station. I was a reporter, a radio actor, I was in finance, I worked in the finance office when they found out I had two years in Rutgers under my belt when I was drafted and I want to mention a joke, too. Everybody says to me, "Were you drafted, or, did you enlist, in World War II?" I says, "Well, let me tell you a story. I fought and fought and fought and still they took me." I got three deferments before my deferment period ran out and they said, "No, you got to go in," and I went. I couldn't get out anymore. [Although, after a year] I was discharged and this was the demobilization just after the war and all the draftees that were drafted were discharged. I was not a combat veteran. I was a World War II veteran, but not a combat veteran...I spent my year in the army and I took advantage of the GI Bill. I came back, I got the GI Bill and they gave me two years. They gave you twice as much study time as the time you served in service. So I served one year, I got two years of schooling credit. The last year I used for Rutgers and I had one more year, and I said to myself, "I might as well take advantage of it." At that time, it was GI Bill was different with what it is now. You are able to go to any school that accepted you and the GI Bill paid for your entire tuition. So I looked around and found the best school that I can go to, regardless of tuition, which was Columbia in New York, and they accepted me. I graduated from a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and they accepted me into the Master's program in business at Columbia and I was amazed that they paid the entire tuition. At that time, it was about $3,000.00 a year at Columbia that was a tremendous amount of money. I went there in 1948. Got my Masters in '49, in business. They paid for all your tuition and any expenses, books, carte blanche , anything you needed was, you know, given to you by the GI Bill and you got a subsistence, a monthly subsistence. Incidentally, I joined the 52/20 Club. I don't know whether you know that. 52/20 Club was given to World War II veterans who were discharged. They got twenty dollars a week for fifty-two weeks, that's the 52/20 Club, until they were able to become employed. This was part of the GI Bill also, but the GI Bill was a tremendous asset to the United States of America. The first time, it was a revolution that all these people, who never would go to college, went to college because of the GI Bill...   
   
SH: When you went to Columbia, you said you were in business administration, you received your Masters degree, what did you plan to do with your life from then on? Did you have a plan or…  
   
HL: No, not really. I wanted a, I thought that, you know, "doing well" is to go into business and so I went to business administration and business program for one year in Columbia. I only had one year left of my GI Bill so I went for the one year program and I graduated, you know, in one year, I got my Masters and then was hired in sales for a company, a clothing manufacturer in New York City. The name of the company, strangely enough is Standard Oil Clothing Company, no relation to the old Standard Oil which is now Exxon, and I worked there as sales and sales manager for nine years, from 1949 until 1958, and I was so successful, that the firm went bankrupt, and I had to decide, to make a big decision... So I looked around, I said, a couple of my friends went into teaching and they said, "Why don't you look at that?" So I went back to school, I went to Seton Hall, got my teaching certificate.  
   
   
**Jack J. Konner**  
   
Rutgers Oral History Archives  
New Brunswick History Department  
   
Althea Miller: This begins an interview with Jack Konner in Portland, Oregon, on June 3, 1999, with Althea Miller and ...  
   
Sebastian Bernheim: ... Sebastian Bernheim.  
   
AM: I would like to start by asking you about your parents' history. I see that both parents were born in New York.  
   
Jack Konner: No. My mother was born in New York. My father was born in Paterson, New Jersey, I'm quite sure. [laughter]  
   
AM: They were both Jewish.  
   
JK: That's right.  
   
AM: However, you were born in New York City.  
   
JK: Yes, because we, the family, lived in New York City when my parents were first married.  
   
AM: You grew up in Paterson. How old were you when your family moved to Paterson?  
   
JK: I was about thirteen...  
   
AM: When you went to enlist, since your parents gave you a lot of good advice, you went right away to get into the Navy.  
   
JK: Yes, well, I mean, I was avoiding the draft, not like they did during the Vietnam War. I avoided the draft by ... enlisting in the Navy and the Navy, of course, had a lot [of prerequisites]. It was much more difficult to get into the Navy, at that time, than, you know, as I say, if you're drafted, they took anybody. In the Navy, you had to have passed certain physical and mental requirements and my parents had heard about this, I can remember, it was called the Eddy Test. ... If you passed this test, you got into an electronics program, and I passed the test, and so, I got into this program, which would ensure that I would be trained in this country for about a year, before I even went to sea. ... At that time, you know, we felt that, by that [time], you know, the war, I think, [when I enlisted, it] was already after D-Day, well after D-Day, and they felt, after a year, the combat would be over.   
   
SB: Did you actually have any interest in electronics at the time of your enlistment?  
   
JK: Not really. [laughter] I mean, I was always fairly mechanical. You know, at that time, electronics is not what it ... [is] today. I mean, there was no such thing as transistors, we had radio tubes, you know, if you've ever seen those, the old radio vacuum tubes, and the only electronic equipment, basically, ... was an old-fashioned radio, and so, you know, it was no big deal. It wasn't a big field at that time, but, of course, World War II was the catalyst for enlarging the field. I mean, that's when all the inventions happened, and so, ... the field of electronics was tremendously enlarged during the war.  
   
AM: What were your interests in high school? Were you planning on going to college?  
   
JK: Oh, yes, definitely, yes. Yes, my interests were mostly in the arts, well, literature and the arts, more so than sciences.  
   
AM: You also had a background in music.  
   
JK: Music, yes.  
   
AM: This was a real change for you, to go into electronics.  
   
JK: Well, you know, it was always a practical thing, you know. As far as the Navy goes, ... or any of the Armed Services, you just have to look at it from a practical viewpoint. First of all, if you're patriotic, how can you be helpful? but, also, you know, I don't think ... anybody who goes into the service wants to get killed, you know. So, you're looking [at] how to get into a billet ... that you're going to do well and protect yourself, yes.  
   
AM: Yes, I know that a lot of people tried as hard as they could to avoid the infantry.  
   
JK: Yes, yes, that was the [case]. Well, at least if you saw Saving Private Ryan, I mean, I never got into action, but, boy, you know, it was [horrifying], and nobody, even today, even at that time, ... they couldn't tell you what it was really like and it was only afterwards, when, you know, people realized it was just ... slaughter, absolutely slaughter.  
   
SB: Did you feel proud, at this point, that you had joined the Navy?  
   
JK: Yes, at that age, I was very patriotic. I'm still patriotic, I think, but, you know, ... I was pleased to be in the Navy, I guess. I can remember one funny thing from boot camp. As I said, I got in at the end of the war. The War in Europe was already over, that ended during the spring, before I graduated, and we were still fighting Japan and, while I was in (Chicago?), we dropped the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima. Of course, nobody even knew that we had an atomic bomb. It was a very well-kept secret at that time.   
   
SB: While you were there?  
   
JK: I was in boot camp at the time. Of course, our whole battalion was this electronics group, which, at that time, was called RTs, or radio technicians, and we were very much disliked, I guess is the word, by the rest of boot [camp]. ... Great Lakes was a tremendous place. They all knew that we had passed this test and that we were going into some [advanced training]. First of all, that by passing the test, we presumably were smarter than the other people, you know, and they all knew we were going to go to school for a year. So, all the other groups, you know, the battalions or whatever they were called at that time, kind of looked down on ... what they called the RTs. As a matter-of-fact, we weren't called RTs; we were called "bleeping" RTs. I mean, that was just the [way it was]. You never said the RT without the qualifying adjective.  
   
SB: You are censoring yourself; you were not called "bleeping," correct?  
   
JK: No, we were called the real thing; you want me to say it over this?   
   
SB: No.  
   
JK: You know what I mean. ...  
   
AM: How did you feel about the atomic bomb once you found out what it was?   
   
JK: Well, we ... had no idea that millions of people, or thousands of people, ... were killed by it and ... we didn't even know what it was. All we knew was it was going to shorten the war, and it did shorten the war, ... you know, very much, right after that.   
   
AM: Do you think that the GI Bill actually helped a lot more people who would not have gone to college otherwise go to college?  
   
JK: Oh, yes, oh, yes. Of course, there was a lot of frauds, right after the war. I mean, all these colleges opened up, you know. Anybody who wanted to open up a college, they would put an address up and have a college, just so that they could get money from the government. ... So, there was a lot of illegitimate education going on, where ... people weren't even getting educated; they were just collecting money from the government in a bogus school.  
   
SB: They would give part of it to the student.  
   
JK: I don't know how it worked. Yes, I'm sure the student was benefiting from it and the school was benefiting from it and, eventually, they caught up with these [fraudulent colleges], because, of course, the GI Bill ended, and then, all these places went out of business. ... Any time you have a big government program, there's going to be fraud and discrepancies, but, overall, you know, I think the World War II program, basically the GI Bill, was a tremendous benefit and I think it was a tremendous spur to the prosperity that occurred right after the war, because it put a lot of money in the hands of people who were ready to spend it.   
   
AM: After graduating from Rutgers, you then went into business.   
   
JK: [I] went into my father's business, which, as I said, since Paterson was going downhill, that lasted about ten years and the business was going nowhere. So, then, ... my father-in-law asked me to come into his business, so, I went into business with my father-in-law, and I stayed in that from, I would say my whole business [career]. I was there about close to thirty years, in that business.  
   
AM: What type of business was that?  
   
JK: I was a tire distributor, mainly wholesale and industrial, commercial tires, in Paterson, but, then, my children weren't interested in the business. They had all moved out West and, about that time, my father-in-law was dead and I was in business with my brother-in-law and his kids wanted to go into the business, my kids didn't, so, he bought me out, which turned out to be a very good thing. It was a very generous buyout and I ... invested the money and it turned out it's given me a comfortable retirement. ... Of course, when his kids came into [the business], he has one son who came into the business and we didn't get along very well. So, I took early retirement at sixty-two, but it didn't turn out to be a real retirement, because I volunteered as a literacy volunteer and, before I knew it, within a year, I was running a literacy program, full-time running a literacy program, full-time, in Essex County College in Newark.

**Hugh McLeod Maxwell**   
Rutgers Oral History Archives  
New Brunswick History Department  
   
Nicholas Molnar: This begins an interview with Hugh McLeod Maxwell on May 14, 2005, at New Brunswick, New Jersey, with Nicholas Molnar and …  
   
David D'Onofrio: David D'Onofrio.  
   
NM: Thank you for sitting for this interview today. When and where were you born?  
   
Hugh McLeod Maxwell: … I was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, October 21, 1923. My mother and father were from Philadelphia, but my father was out there on business for a year or so and I was born while he was there. I spent the first couple of years in Philadelphia and I spent the rest of my years before coming to Rutgers in Nutley, New Jersey.  
   
DD: Can you tell us a little bit about your father?  
   
HM: My father was born and raised in Philadelphia. He worked his way through the University of Pennsylvania. … He was an accountant, graduated from the Wharton School in finance. My mother was born in Philadelphia. She was the oldest of seven children and she went to what was the equivalent of high school, and then, a normal school. … After a couple of years of high school, in those days, there was a shortage of teachers, … they asked various young ladies if they'd like to accelerate and go into normal school. So, she did that. She was also a graduate of the Philadelphia Conservatory of Music in voice and piano. They were married in 1912, in Philadelphia.  
   
DD: How long did you live in Philadelphia?  
   
HM: Just the first couple of years. I was about three, I think, when we moved to New Jersey. So, really, … my formative education was all in the Nutley public schools.  
   
DD: What kind of town was Nutley?  
   
HM: It was a small town, mostly a commuter town for New York and the surrounding area. It's not much changed today.  
   
DD: Since both of your parents were college-educated, did they expect you to go to college?  
   
HM: … Definitely. I was the youngest of three boys. My two older brothers were nine and eight years older than me and both of them had gone to college, with a lot of help.  
   
DD: Which schools did they go to?  
   
HM: My oldest brother went to Purdue University for two years, and then, … he went to Newark-Rutgers. … I forget what they called it, then. It was the Newark branch of Rutgers; before, it was sort of an extension, night program. He was working and going to school. … My next older brother graduated from Upsala College, which was in East Orange in those days. It has since folded.  
   
NM: You entered Rutgers in 1941.  
   
HM: Yes.  
   
NM: Were you aware of the war situation?  
   
HM: Oh, definitely.   
   
NM: You kept up with the news.  
   
HM: Oh, yes, definitely. You couldn't not keep abreast of it, because it was on the radio all the time. Of course, it was pre-Pearl Harbor, but there were still all kinds of activities going on and we'd had the draft for a long time. … My brother was in the Navy. All my brother's friends were in the Army or the Navy, and then, when Pearl Harbor came, I was here, at Rutgers. As a matter-of-fact, I was singing in the chapel choir on that Sunday and, all of a sudden, we came home from the chapel service when they announced that we're [hit at] Pearl Harbor. Everybody was shocked, didn't know what to make of it. A lot of people enlisted the following day.   
   
NM: You were sweeping mines in the Key West area.  
   
HM: Yes. That was a story, too. During World War II, at the beginning, there were U-boats all off our coasts and they were sinking ships one after another. … The US developed the system of convoys and, even then, they were still losing a lot. … The convoys were coming out of Mississippi and all the whole Gulf area, were assembling off of Key West, and we'd have a certain number of ships together and they'd go on convoy, to Europe or Russia or wherever they were going. Surrounding this whole area was a minefield, our own, to protect the ships that were there. By the time I went there, … that submarine hazard was pretty much eliminated. So, we cleaned up all the mines that were down [there], that we had put out. … I spent from '44 until spring '45, almost a year, in Key West, doing minesweeping, in and out, … every day and sweeping mines and cleaning them up.  
   
NM: Then, you were reassigned.  
   
HM: … Then, our ship was assigned to the Pacific. … So, we went through the Panama Canal and up the West Coast and across [to] Hawaii, Ulithi and Eniwetok and what have you and on out to the Philippines. We were the smallest [type of] ship to cross the Pacific under its own power. It was wooden-hulled.  
   
NM: You were discharged in New York in July 1947.  
   
HM: No, '46, '46, yes, and then, I went back to college that fall and, since I was hot to trot, I got married in the middle of my senior year. My wife, my fiancée at the time, got the highest paying job as a teacher out of NJC, fifteen hundred dollars a year. She was teaching in Scotch Plains. She was teaching and I was back in school, on the GI Bill, and so, we got married on December 21, 1946.  
   
NM: Did you have to re-enroll at Rutgers?   
   
HM: Yes, yes.  
   
NM: You re-enrolled that summer.  
   
HM: Re-enrolled in Rutgers. I could have gone back to Cornell, if I wanted to, but I chose to go to Rutgers.  
   
DD: The GI Bill paid for Rutgers after that.  
   
HM: Yes. So, really, … I got by with a very cheap education, because, by being an Aggie and I was a commuter, my first couple of years were fairly reasonable. My dad had to pay [then]. Then, I got one year in the Navy, and then, I came back and was on the GI Bill. … I wasn't sure just how many credits I had, and so, I was taking courses that I needed to take, I thought I was a junior, and then, the assistant dean who was in charge of the program at the College of Agriculture called me in one day. He said, "You're not a junior." "You've got all your credits from Cornell, and you've got more than enough credits to graduate this year." … Since I was already married then, I was going to be a man of the world. I said, "I'm going to go out and get [to work]." I got my degree and I said that was it.   
   
NM: Did you notice if there were many veterans, like yourself, returning on the GI Bill?  
   
HM: Oh, yes. … That's when Rutgers grew like Topsy and this was all over the country. It wasn't just Rutgers, [it was] every school in the country. This was the best thing for this country, the GI Bill, because all sorts of kids that could never have afforded to go to college got to go to college on the GI Bill and a lot of your top engineers and scientists and you name it, in whatever field, got [the] benefits of an education under the GI Bill. I only got one year out of it. Some of them got five or six. I could have gotten more. I should have, if I had enough sense to do it at the time, but I didn't.   
   
NM: You lived in New Jersey. Where was this?  
   
HM: This was on Long Island, primarily.  
   
NM: You commuted to Long Island on the weekends.  
   
HM: Well, no, no. When I graduated from Rutgers, my first job out of college was as a 4-H Club agent in Somerset County. So, I was … really on the faculty of Rutgers, as such. I spent a couple of years doing that, but … that wasn't my real cup of tea. So, I became the agronomist for a big truck farm. That was my specialty, agronomy, the study of soils, … and so, I was an agronomist. I was in charge of all the fertilizer, liming programs, insect control, disease control, what have you, for a truck farm with about two thousand acres of vegetables...

**Albert Goldstein**   
Rutgers Oral History Archives  
New Brunswick History Department  
   
   
Dustin Elias: This begins an interview with Albert Goldstein on March 27, 2002, in New Brunswick, New Jersey. Mr. Goldstein, good morning.  
   
Albert Goldstein: Good morning.  
   
Sandra Stewart Holyoak: The interview is being conducted by Dustin Elias and Sandra Stewart Holyoak.  
   
DE: Mr. Goldstein, I will let you begin by discussing your parents. Can you tell us a little bit about them? Where is your father from?  
   
AG: My father was born in Poland, 1896. He came to this country, with his mother and I think it was three siblings, in 1900, I believe it was. It may have been [18]98 or [18]99, I'm not really sure about that one. His father and older brother had preceded them by a couple of years, which was a common practice at that time, with trying to establish roots and find a job and housing, and then, they moved here, came in through Ellis Island.  
   
SH: When your mother and father married, where did they settle? Where was their home?  
   
AG: They started at, apparently, I believe their first apartment was in Brooklyn. I was born in Brooklyn and it was shortly after that that they set up this company in Newark, in the Ironbound section, and they moved from there to Irvington.  
   
SH: Where did you begin your elementary education?  
   
AG: I think I had about a half a year of kindergarten in Irvington. Then, we moved and I was in either kindergarten or whatever, in intermediate, in Plainfield (New Jersey). We were in the, whatever it was, east end of Plainfield.  
   
SH: In high school, were you involved in any extracurricular activities?  
   
AG: Well, let's see, in my freshman year, I tried out for the football team. I managed to get on to the B squad of the junior varsity, got into one game, got kneed in the groin and said, "Enough, this is not for me." I went out for tennis and I don't think they ever had a more inept applicant for the tennis team. So, I really didn't go very far with that. Much more, the activities I remember had more to do with the plays that were put on. I was not on the stage, I was back stage and the props and the sceneries and such. That's all that I can remember.  
   
DE: Did you finish at Rutgers before you went into the service?  
   
AG: No, no. … It became apparent that, even though the war was over, we were going to maintain a fairly large Army and the draft was going to be continued, which meant that, at some point, in the middle of our education, or, more probably, right after we got a degree, I was Class of '49, at that point, we would be drafted, which, to me, didn't make a hell of a lot of sense. So, I said, "Good," a couple of us at that time said, "Why don't we enlist now? Among other things, the Army had a perfectly nice one- and-a-half year enlistment. Good, that means that we would be out, certainly, in a year-and-a-half. Well, that means two years of school. Do it when we want to; we'll be free of the draft later on. As an added bonus, there was still the GI Bill." So, that is precisely what I did do. I signed up in the Army in September and [was] promptly inducted and wound up down in Fort Dix as a starting point.  
   
DE: This would be September of …  
   
AG: Of '46, yes, what should have been my sophomore year. … They shipped me down to Fort McClellan in Georgia, Alabama, I think it's Alabama, for basic training, … which is a miserable time of the year, which is November, December. So, you started off freezing in the morning and too darn hot by noon. I was assigned to the Sixth Division in Korea. … They were part of the Army of Occupation of Japan, officially, but the actual location was Korea and we were out in the boondocks in Korea, went over, of course, by troopship, and I swore that the damned thing would fall apart in the storm. It didn't.  
   
DE: Did the friends that you came to Rutgers with also enlist at that time?  
   
AG: One did. He wound up over in Yugoslavia. I don't think that the other two did. Whether they ever went into [the] service, I don't know, but this, by enlisting then, … yes, I was able to put it behind me. My service consisted of, primarily, guard duty, a presence in Korea in support of the government. We were there. We were out in the boondocks.  
   
SH: Did you have any interaction with any of the other services?  
   
AG: I had no contact with them, no contact. No, no, no, there's nobody else around. In that town, there were three classes of people. There was the Army, there were the Koreans and there were, I think, three women in the USO, period, which we could look at from afar. [laughter]  
   
DE: Did you use the GI Bill when you came back to Rutgers?  
   
AG: Oh, yes, sure, the GI Bill took care of tuition and books and so forth through the three years that I, had left here at Rutgers, and then, it supported me through a goodly course in my graduate work. The GI Bill and the Marshall Plan are two of the more enlightened pieces of legislation that this country has ever put together. Why we can't continue, it to be as enlightened in other things, I have no idea, but they were fabulous.   
   
SH: Since you had the GI Bill, did you think of transferring to another institution?  
   
AG: Rutgers was a very, very good school.   
   
SH: Especially in your field (Chemistry), at that time.  
   
AG: It has remained very good and I had no thought of staying in academics. Therefore, there was no great reason to, in terms of prestige, and, if I were to do so, even from a prestige standpoint, graduate school would be the more important [area], but, no, there was no question of going elsewhere.  
   
DE: You finished your PhD quite quickly.  
   
AG: I guess I spent a lot of time in the lab. I wasn't very interested in staying there. I was married, I wanted to get out and get to work and we had [our first] child on the way, and so, I spent a lot of time in the lab and managed to do it reasonably well. I got four papers out of it. It was very nice, and so, let's see, [I] went to work for General Foods, [the] major reason being that this was an opportunity to stay in New Jersey. We wanted to stay near both families. My father-in-law, … I never knew him. He passed away when my wife was still in high school, but she wanted to stay near her mother, which was understandable, and I wanted to stay near the folks, and so, this gave us an opportunity to stay in Jersey. I did. I worked there for a year before I left. I was not happy with the type of work we were doing, not the company. The company was perfectly good, but [it was] the type of work we were doing and the idea of a very, very subjective evaluation of food flavoring. I was involved in the … aromatization of instant coffee.

**Peter Daly Campbell**  
   
Rutgers Oral History Archives  
New Brunswick History Department  
   
Shaun Illingworth: This begins an interview with the Honorable Peter Campbell in New Brunswick, New Jersey with Shaun Illingworth and …  
   
Tracy Pall: Tracy Pall …  
   
SI: On Oct. 11, 2002. Judge Campbell, thank you very much for being with us this morning.  
   
Peter Campbell: You're welcome, sure, glad to be here.  
   
SI: To begin, could you tell us a little bit about your father who was a native of Boston?  
   
PC: Yes. My father was from Boston. He met my mother when he was stationed down here at the Raritan arsenal. She was driving an ambulance for the Red Cross and they met and fell in love and were married during World War I.   
   
SI: Was your father's family always from Boston?  
   
PC: Yes, they were. They came from Prince Edward Island and they settled around Boston and then he settled down here [New Jersey].  
   
   
SI: What about your mother and her family? Were they native to New Brunswick?  
   
PC: My mother? Yes, she was a native of New Brunswick, and her father was a Supreme Court Justice of New Jersey, Judge Peter F. Daly, whom I'm named after.   
   
SI: What can you tell us about growing up in Highland Park?  
   
PC: Well, Highland Park is a strictly residential town. All the Rutgers people lived there and we were very happy … [It was a] happy childhood. I went to St. Paul's Grammar School and then Highland Park High School. … I was out of high school seven days and [then] I joined the United States Navy and I went on from there.  
   
SI: You grew up during the Depression. How did the Depression affect your family?  
   
PC: Well, we didn't have any money, but it didn't really affect us. My mother was a very great provider, and a good shopper, and we always ate well. We always said, "We had the smallest garbage pails in town because of four children." We all ate very, very well. … There was no waste in that house, and we got that from Mother. As I said, my father died when I was ten, but we had really a happy childhood in Highland Park. [We were] very close to Rutgers at the time. I have great memories of going to football games at the Nelson Field, seeing the great Jack Grossman and many other Rutgers' greats. … [It was] very comforting to be so close to Rutgers. It seemed quite natural, when I got out of the Navy, that I decided then that I wanted to go to college and that I gravitated to Rutgers quite naturally.  
   
SI: Had you always planned on studying at Rutgers?  
   
PC: No, I didn't even want to go to college when I was in high school. I didn't think I would last long. … I deferred going to college, it was abhorring to me, really. … I was in the Navy for three years and served on the destroyer most of that time in the North Atlantic, in the Mediterranean. … I had all the time to myself to think as to what I wanted to do in the future, because, you're on gun watch four hours on, eight hours off, so, you have plenty of time to think. … So, towards the end of my time in the Navy, I said, … "Maybe we'll give college a try," and "It can't be all bad." So, when I got out of the Navy, in March of 1946, I applied to Rutgers and I started in, I believe, June of 1946.   
   
SI: I understand that some of the senior officers aboard the ship were college men. Was that an influence on any of the men?  
   
PC: Not really. … The officers' education didn't bother us. We all could spot the guys who went to Annapolis because they were "spit and polish" more so than the others, but college wasn't mentioned. We had too many other things to think about. We were chasing submarines around. But I enjoyed the Navy. The Navy was the best thing that ever happened to me, because it gave me that time to think about my future, and it gave me the GI Bill, which paid for my college and law school. … Without that GI Bill I would not have been able to go to college or law school.   
   
SI: Where were you when Pearl Harbor was attacked?  
   
PC: It was a Sunday afternoon; I was home in Highland Park, December 7, 1941. I remember very vividly. I remember I was in my room, I had the radio on, and I was [in] rapt attention to the events in Pearl Harbor. … I saw the movement for the young people to go into the service that followed that [Pearl Harbor] immediately. I had no desire to go in right then, I was too young anyway, so, a couple of years later, in June of 1943, is when I went in the Navy.   
   
SI: Why did you choose the Navy?  
   
PC: Well, I chose the Navy because I was going to be drafted. I didn't want to go in the army. I always liked boats, so, I signed up for the Navy prior to my … graduation in June of 1943. So, a week after graduation, or two weeks, I was in the Navy.  
   
SI: How soon after leaving the Navy did you go to Rutgers?  
   
PC: It was three months. … I started here, in New Brunswick, and I took two courses. I just didn't want to … wait until the fall and just be blind-sided, I felt, with a whole bunch of [classes], a full schedule, so, I took two courses, an English, and then a math course, I'm quite sure, in the summer time. … That was it. … Then comes the fall, [and] I took the regular [course load]. I was a political science major, [and a] history minor. I was just at Rutgers for three years. They had a system that your first year in law school would count as your last year in college. So, I spent a little over three years here, then I went to law school, Rutgers in Newark, and then that was it.  
   
SI: Did you find that a lot of your classmates were World War II veterans and on the GI Bill as well?  
   
PC: Yes. We were all like in a mold. … We all wore Army and Navy jackets, and we were all about the same age. It was the non-veterans who were the exception. I belonged to the Delta Upsilon fraternity, which was a great experience. … The young guys were the guys that weren't the veterans. … We all got along fine. There were no problems, but the majority seemed to be all veterans.  
   
SI: Could you see, mentally, the difference between the veterans and non-veterans?  
   
PC: I just think that the veterans lied more and cried more, maybe, and told more war stories than were necessary. In all, there was not that much of a difference.  
   
SI: Did you have the idea of going to law school when you first came to Rutgers?  
   
PC: Well, … my grandfather was a Supreme Court Justice, and I was named after him, so, in growing up, everybody inevitably said, "You're going to be a lawyer," so, I decided, I'd do anything in the world except be a lawyer, because, I'd been hearing this, all this time, so, the Navy cured me of that. So, I said, "I'm not going to make any decision now, but maybe I'll go to law school and maybe I won't." Then, as college went on, I decided to try law school. … It was … a maturing process. … My family never bothered me. My family never bugged me at all about it. It was always the relatives, and the name, and all that kind of stuff. But it worked out well, having the time by myself in the Navy to decide I wanted to go to college, and it was good for me to have time in college to decide I wanted to go to law school, so, one sort of followed the other... I thoroughly enjoyed being a lawyer. I can say, in fifty years, I never had two days alike, … and I'm still practicing. I'm going to talk myself into retiring this coming year. … Practicing law has been very satisfying, very satisfying to me.

**Harold J. Harris**  
   
Rutgers Oral History Archives  
New Brunswick History Department  
   
Sandra Stewart Holyoak: This begins an interview with Mr. Harold J. Harris on May 15, 1999, in Bishop House at Rutgers University. This interview is being conducted by Sandra Stewart Holyoak and …  
   
Sean D. Harvey: Sean D. Harvey.  
   
SH: Mr. Harris, thank you for sitting down with us during the very busy weekend of your fiftieth reunion at Rutgers. To begin, where and when were you born?  
   
Harold Harris: I was born in Paterson, New Jersey, 1924.  
   
SH: Can you tell us a little bit about your parents?   
   
HH: My mother and father were both immigrants. My mother came to this country as a very young girl, so, she didn't think of herself as an immigrant. My father came, as a young man, from Poland. They married; it was his second wife. He had … worked briefly as a carpenter in England before coming to the United States and, in this country, he worked in the silk industry. When I was growing up in Paterson, Paterson was known as the silk city of the world. My mother had no career, very little education, grammar school, which, at that time, was a fair amount. My father had, I think, even less education. Neither of them thought of themselves as educated people. Neither of them was interested in ideas. Neither of them was particularly interested in education, for me or for anyone, although my four older brothers, particularly my three oldest, who are my half-brothers, two of them got good educations. One of them wound up as a doctor and the other as a dentist.  
   
SH: How old was your father when he came to this country?  
   
HH: I'm not certain. He would have been in his late twenties or early thirties.  
   
SH: In high school, did you have an interest in college? You said that no one really encouraged you to aim for higher education.  
   
HH: Not really, no. I thought of myself as a kid, and then, in high school, as, potentially, a writer, but I had no idea what that meant. I don't think I would have ever gone to college, and certainly wouldn't have finished college, if not for the GI Bill. … I came out of the Army, got the GI Bill and decided to go to college, knew very little about college.  
   
SH: Were you drafted into the Army?  
   
HH: Yes, I was, yes, just past eighteen.  
   
SH: Where did you report for duty?  
   
HH: Newark, and then, I was sent to Fort Dix. … After a short period there, from which I contracted scarlet fever, which meant my life was saved, because most of the guys I was inducted with were all shipped out and one of them, one of my best friends, was killed in Normandy, in the infantry. A couple others were in the airborne infantry, over [in] the Philippines, that were dropped, and so, the chances are, if I hadn't gotten scarlet fever, I would have gone on one of those campaigns.  
   
SH: What were you trained to be?  
   
HH: I was trained … as a medic. I have no idea why, but that meant that I was not trained in the use of weapons. I fired a gun maybe twice. … My basic training was … the ten-mile hike and the … obstacle course. I was very good at that sort of thing. I weighed about 140 pounds then. I was in perfect health. I enjoyed that sort of thing.  
   
SH: How quickly did you settle on journalism as your major?   
   
HH: Immediately. I don't remember what led up to the decision, but I know I had thought of myself, since I was a little boy, as a writer and journalism struck me as being the way to go.  
   
SH: What were your plans from that point on?  
   
HH: My plan was to take a Masters in English. I had decided on that, because I had time left on the GI Bill and because, at that time, there were no jobs available for a would-be newspaper reporter, at least not in the East, and that being the case and my having at least, well, I had quite a bit of time left on the GI Bill, I decided to stay here at Rutgers and to take a Masters in English and that was what I did right after our marriage.  
   
SH: After you completed your Masters at Rutgers, where did you go?  
   
HH: I then went to the Ohio State University in Columbus   
   
SH: You finished your Masters in one year.  
   
HH: Then, when I got the PhD in 1954, the window of opportunity … I had the offer of four or five jobs, which was remarkable, or was, in a very few years, to become remarkable, and my wife and I had an interview at Miami University at Miami, Ohio, and I had a job offer from them. I was interviewed at a conference by the chairman of the University of Cincinnati … English Department. I could have gone there. I could have gone to the University of Vermont … and, also, Wayne State was in the picture. I chose Kalamazoo College because, at that time, it had just gotten a bundle of money from the Upjohn Family, which was the dominant family in Kalamazoo, the Upjohn Pharmaceutical Company, and they were buying up young talent. They were making, really, a drive to become a major small liberal arts college. So, they offered me, I think it was five hundred dollars a year more than the University of Vermont. At that time, it was quite a good salary that they were offering and we drove up to Kalamazoo together for the interview and they treated us royally and I liked the look of the place. I liked the people that I met. So, without hesitation, I decided on Kalamazoo College and I never regretted it. It was a great choice. … I taught there from 1954 until 1990, when I retired.  
   
**Howard F. Canning**  
   
Robert Lipschitz: I think I'd like to start with what you remember about your parents. Can you tell me about your parents, where they're from and how they came to New Jersey?   
   
Howard F. Canning: I'm not exactly sure, but I think that my mother was born in New Jersey, and that my father came from Ossining, New York. Dad's father came from Brighton, England, and the woman he married was already in the United States. My parents were wonderful [people] who lived in an apartment in Jersey City, New Jersey. We were there for about five years when my maternal grandmother and her second husband moved out of Jersey City, which was really harrowing, new ground at the time. My mother's stepfather had a new house built, around which he did a lot of earth moving. (The property was a corner lot that sloped down to a general store and a reservoir). In moving the soil about, which he was not accustomed to doing, her stepfather had a heart attack and passed along, virtually before they moved into the house. So, Grandmother asked my parents if they would like to live with her, which they did. So, I grew up in Woodcliff Lake, New Jersey.   
   
RL: How far had you traveled? Had you been out of New Jersey, out of the general New Jersey, New York area?   
   
HC: Not really very far, until the war took me afield.   
   
RL: So, the war was a ...   
   
HC: It was a ticket to see the world. I guess, we see posters to the effect, "Join the Navy and See the World." It was true.   
   
RL: Drexel was the first college you attended?   
   
HC: Drexel Institute of Technology, yes. I didn't know exactly where I wanted to go to college and the finances were certainly a problem, and here, again, I listened to parental and school authorities. The orientation of Park Ridge High School in Park Ridge, New Jersey, was to get students into engineering schools. I really didn't fit that mold, but, not knowing my own mind, I felt I had to follow their advice and give engineering a try. The school principal and math instructor, because I was beginning to blossom and showing some signs of understanding trigonometry, did … push me toward giving engineering a try. They recommended Drexel because it had a program where one could finance their education by working in industry during alternating semesters and take five years to get the degree. So, that's where I went.   
   
RL: How did you like Philadelphia and Drexel, when you first went there?   
   
HC: Not very much. Growing up in countrified Woodcliff Lake, I did not appreciate the surroundings, too citified. There was no campus to speak of. The institute was a large factory-like structure with sidewalk around it. And the pressure of the engineering studies made life difficult. I lived in a fraternity house, Lambda Chi Alpha, where I was the subject of jokes or pranks every weekend. I remember being told that they had to test the fire emergency system. That system consisted of a rope coiled up and attached to the wall alongside a window. You threw the rope out the window and then, hand-over-hand, let yourself down the rope. While going down, I was pelted with buckets of water from above. Everyone had a happy time at my expense. I went along with it, because you couldn't do anything about it.   
   
RL: How long did you stay at Drexel?  
   
HC: About two years. When the war started, all eligible male students were automatically enlisted in the ERC (Enlisted Reserve Corps). I had an Army uniform and, as a corporal, I put my squad through marching drills. You either stayed in the ERC or opted to go into another service branch. I chose the Navy and was sent to join the Navy's V-12 program at MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology).  
   
   
RL: So, is that how you got into the military at that time?   
   
HC: I was in the military when I was in the ERC. Some of my classmates continued in the V-12 program, graduated and spent some time on duty, but I don't know whether that would have been so rewarding, because by the time they graduated, the war was about over. Not that I was so gung ho and anxious to go to war, but the experience did enable me to see some of the world. Yet, from a formal education standpoint, they were far ahead of me. Going to Newport was the lowest point in my life. After boot camp, I went to the Naval Training Station at Bainbridge, Maryland, where I learned to be a signalman. The war in the Atlantic was winding down, so I was sent to San Diego, where I was assigned to APA (Auxiliary Personnel Attack ship) 118. It was under construction in San Pedro, which is next to Long Beach, California. While standing watches on the ship, I wondered if it was going to hold together, based on the hurried workmanship. After sea trials off Long Beach, we sailed for Pearl Harbor. We boarded Marines and they practiced landings. We were then assigned to a convoy that took part in the invasion of Saipan.   
   
RL: What was the first thing you did when you were discharged? What was the date?   
   
HC: I think it was March 15, 1946, and I was very happy to take the uniform off. I really felt that I didn't have to put it on again. But I did about two weekends ago for a USO reenactment in Gardner, Massachusetts, to raise money for veterans. Our church soloist was singing there and, to please her, my wife and I went. There weren't too many others in uniform. It wasn't a particularly fun evening. Times had changed; the party was for a worthy cause, but, aside from that, it felt uncomfortable as it reminded me of those who had not returned. I cannot ever forget the tremendous sacrifice that so many paid for our continued freedoms.   
   
RL: What happened after the war?   
   
HC: I wanted to continue with my interrupted education. It was March and I was looking forward to going to school in the fall. I enrolled in the Donovan Business School in Hackensack, New Jersey. I learned accounting, touch typing and refreshed my shorthand skills. The law required that the institution that you left to join the war effort take you back, but I had found that journalism was more to my liking, which was offered at Rutgers, but more liberal arts courses were required before I could matriculate. Thus, I went to Paterson State Teachers' College in Paterson, New Jersey, now William Paterson University in Wayne, New Jersey. I was there for one year, and then, after passing an all-day State-administered test, went to Rutgers in the fall of 1947.   
   
RL: How do you feel about the GI Bill?  
   
HC: It was a godsend. That was, I think, one of the finest things that the government did for the returning veterans. My parents had enough money to pay for my first year of college. If it hadn't been for the GI Bill, I wouldn't have been able to complete my education without working part-time. Even so, it meant eking it out. I was always looking forward to that check. I ate parsimoniously in the cafeteria. It was a challenge, but I am eternally grateful for the education it afforded me to obtain.   
   
RL: How did your parents feel about you switching to journalism from engineering?  
   
HC: Oh, they recognized that I wasn't destined to be an engineer. It probably hurt my mother the most, as she had great desires that I become an engineer. I could appreciate engineering to explain or write about it, which did come about in my becoming a technical writer, and, thus, the two disciplines were combined.   
   
RL: After Rutgers, you got a job at Carrier Air Conditioning Corporation.  
   
HC: No. There were two other jobs before joining Carrier. The first one was at Caltex in New York City, where I did clerical work. I had worked there the previous summer. Jobs were hard to come by in 1949 when I graduated. I was there about two weeks when I received a postcard from the Rutgers Placement Bureau saying that a Mr. E. M. Van Duzer at Eastern Air Lines was looking for a journalist to take charge of an in-house publication called The Great Silver Fleet News. My first day on the job, Mr. Van Duzer called me into his office, set me down and, banging on his desk, said, "Young man, I know that you think you're a hotshot because you're fresh out of college, but I want you to know that you're just an ordinary 'jamoke' and that you don't know very much and that you are to take orders from me and do what I say." Well, he succeeded in making me feel insignificant, but he didn't have to come on so strongly, as I did not feel puffed up or special or pompous. I was glad to finally be starting my career that looked exciting. Nevertheless, I was glad he expressed his feelings and we did get along well in an our employee/employer relationship.

**Arnold Lasner**   
Dustin Elias: This begins an interview with Sandra Stewart Holyoak, Dustin Elias, and Arnold Lasner on Friday, April 26, 2002, in Plainfield, New Jersey.  
   
DE: Mr. Lasner, I would like to begin by asking you about your parents. Can you tell me about your father?  
   
Arnold Lasner: My father was born in the States, in New York. Next question.  
   
DE: What did he do for a living?  
   
AL: My father and his three brothers were in the trucking business in Elizabeth, New Jersey.  
   
DE: Were you born in New York?  
   
AL: No, I was born in Carteret [New Jersey].  
   
DE: Did you grow up there?  
   
AL: I grew up, went through schooling, through high school in Carteret.  
   
SH: How often did you discuss the war [in high school] and how was it discussed?  
   
AL: In the different organizations that I was in, in high school, the band and the chemistry club and the French club and this club and that club, we constantly discussed the war. We realized that the war was on. We knew that we would be in it. There were a number of us that I can recall, who are no longer with us that were in high school, went into the service. Through different accidents and, what have you, are no longer around, but as far as discussing it, yes, we discussed it. We knew we're gonna be in it, we hoped that it would be over soon. It was just life day to day, until it caught up with you.  
   
DE: Can you tell us about your experience when Pearl Harbor was bombed?  
   
AL: December 7th, a shock. It came as a shock to the nation. I was not in the service at that time. I was still in school. I was still in high school. I knew of my dad and my uncle, having been in the army during World War I that this was it. I'd eventually end up in the service. My thoughts were, the world is topsy-turvy now. I just have to play it day by day and wait my turn.  
   
DE: Did you know where Pearl Harbor was?  
   
AL: I knew of Pearl Harbor. I had a neighbor, who had one of their relatives was in the Navy, and we were very close to that neighbor, ... and we knew about Pearl Harbor.  
   
DE: Did you believe that an attack on Pearl Harbor could actually have happened?  
   
AL: I'm thinking of today and then. Today, yes, it could happen. Then it could never have happened. With what's going on in the world today, anything can happen.  
   
SH: Tell us what you saw at D-Day plus ten into southern France?  
   
AL: What I saw, not very much in southern France, because when we landed ...  
   
SH: Where did you land?  
   
AL: In Marseilles and we went up, got into six-by-sixes and they drove us right to Grenoble. How many kilometers, I don't recall, where we met our outfit and went with the outfit. So I didn't see too much other than looking out of the back of the truck with the flaps flapping. As far as the towns being beaten up or not, I didn't see that much of it.  
   
SH: Was there ever a chance for you to apply to OCS [Officer Candidate School] or specialized training?  
   
AL: Good question. Like a rifleman in any company, I was rifleman in a cavalry company. I was eighteen, nineteen years old... No, I never thought of, fortunately, I was unfortunate in not being a gung ho individual that was asked to become an officer, or what have you. I became a [Army] private, a PFC (Private First Class) and the war went on. I hope that answers your question.  
   
SH: How did you get to Rutgers?  
   
AL: I was discharged Christmas Day of '45...  
   
SH: You used your GI Bill to go to Rutgers?  
   
AL: I used the GI Bill to go to Rutgers and I used the GI Bill for our first home.  
   
DE: Can you tell us how you went from Rutgers into your career.  
   
AL: Okay. This is 1949. Now, when I graduated and one of my professors had a friend who was instrumental in a clothing company who had an outlet in Newark, as well as in Elizabeth, and they were looking for someone to become a credit manager in one, so he happened to mention it and I mentioned it to him and I got the job. That was my first job. ... I started in their Newark store and then took over the Elizabeth store as credit manager and that lasted for a while. From there I went to Griffith Piano Company in Elizabeth as credit manager and that lasted for a little bit longer. ... From there I was interviewed for a job of credit manager, the company was a Pittsburgh company and, by the way, I got married in the interim.  
   
DE: Can you tell us how you went from Rutgers into your career.  
   
AL: Okay. This is 1949. Now, when I graduated and one of my professors had a friend who was instrumental in a clothing company who had an outlet in Newark, as well as in Elizabeth, and they were looking for someone to become a credit manager in one… From there I ended up in Plainfield (New Jersey), as credit manager for a furniture store and we had our first child, Jay. ... From there we had our second child, Andrew, and Estelle's parents had a store in Plainfield, a ladies wear shop, and they were set to retire. So, I left credit managing and went into the ladies wear business...